

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-7, 9-13 and 15-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 8 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 1, 5-6 and 9 are amended. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

A. Applicants sincerely acknowledge the Office Action's indication that claims 8-13 and 15-21 define patentable subject matter.

B. The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,546,130 to Hackett et al. (hereafter "Hackett"). The Office Action Office Action rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hackett. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is amended to incorporate subject matter indicated to be allowable in claim 8. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit claim 1 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 and therefore also define patentable subject matter for at least that reason as well as their additionally recited features. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102 and claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

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Docket No. P-0336

Reply to Office Action of May 3, 2005

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Carl R. Wesolowski, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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